

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retreaded or new  
5 tires, the mold having an upper platen, a lower platen, and a central rim for sealing the  
tire at the beads, the central rim being open to atmospheric pressure at the radially inner  
surfaces, the radially outer surfaces in combination with the upper platen and lower  
platen forming a toroidal pressure chamber for curing the tire; the method comprising the  
steps of:  
10 providing a frangible member attached and open to the toroidal pressure  
chamber through an opening in the central rim; and opening the frangible  
member to the atmosphere pressure  $P_0$  when the chamber pressure reached a  
predetermined pressure  $P_1$ ,  $P_1$  being greater than the tire curing pressure  $P_c$ .
- 15 2. The method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retread or new  
tires of claim 1 wherein the step of opening the frangible member includes the step of  
rupturing a portion of the frangible member at the predetermined pressure  $P_1$ .
3. The method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retread or new  
20 tires further comprises the step of directing the chamber flow exhaust orthogonal relative  
to the attachment to the rim.
4. An improved mold for curing retreaded or new tires, the mold having  
an upper platen  
25 a lower platen  
a central rim, the central rim having a radially inner surface open to  
atmospheric pressure and an exterior surface in combination with the upper  
platen and lower platen forming toroidal pressure chamber for curing a tire; the  
improved mold being characterized by a frangible member being attached to an  
30 opening in the central rim and being connected on a radially inner surface of the  
rim, the frangible member opens to atmospheric pressure  $P_0$  when the chamber  
pressure reaches a predetermined pressure  $P_1$ ,  $P_1$  being greater than the tire curing  
pressure  $P_c$ .

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9. The improved mold of claim 4 wherein all exhaust flows and centrally directed initially within the central rim.